GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2512
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2001
POVERTY STARVATION IN RURAL AREAS
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment of the impact of Poverty Alleviation Programme in view of prevailing poverty and starvation especially in tribal/backward areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the names of districts where such studies have been conducted and the outcome thereof, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the living condition of these people?

Answer

MINISTER FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU)

(a): Impact Assessment Study of Poverty alleviation Programmes in a few selectedDistricts has been conducted by the Ministry of Rural Development.

(b)&(c): During 1998-99, Impact Assessment Study of Poverty alleviation Programmes was undertaken in 12 districts of nine States with a view to evaluate the overall impact of various Schemes in the rural areas. Name of the States and districts where the Study was conducted are as under:

State	District (s)
Bihar	Sitamarhi, Chhapra, Jahanabad and Dumka
Kerala	Idukki
Punjab	Jalandhar
Maharashtra	Aurangabad
Rajasthan	Jaisalmer
Karnataka	Mysore
Uttar Pradesh	Gonda
Manipur	Senapati
Meghalaya	Tura

Some of the major findings of the Study show that despite many problems, the Poverty alleviation Programmes had definitely made an impact. All stakeholders had reported that although piecemeal, the villages had certainly progressed, especially due to the creation of community assets like roads, water points, essential buildings like the school, etc. There were reports of increasing affordability for basic necessities and other household expenses. In many cases, the additional income had been diverted to the education of the children. Majority of the recipients of assistance for creating assets were earning viable income from the Schemes. The target groups were generally found to be enjoying better standard of living in the villages which indicates that the impact of these programmes has been favourable in the past in raising the standard of living of the poor people.

(d): Government have restructured the major Poverty alleviation Programmes such as Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Watershed Development and Rural Sanitatio Programmes to give better focus on the rural poor and to improve their living conditions. The Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and the newly launched Prime Minister`s Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)are also designed to improve the quality of life of the rural poor.